



### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **WELDON INTRODUCES MEASURE SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH**

**WASHINGTON (5 Apr.)** – Today marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Lehigh University student Jeanne Clery, who was murdered in her dormitory room by a fellow student – a drug and alcohol abuser whom she did not know. On the occasion of this anniversary and in an effort to better inform college students and their parents about college campus safety, U.S. Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.) has introduced legislation supporting the designation of September as National Campus Safety Awareness Month.

“As the father of five children that all have attended college, I understand how important it is to know about crime information on college and university campuses. The availability of these statistics is helpful for both students and parents when seeking a college,” said Congressman Weldon. “This resolution supports designating a month to raise awareness about national campus safety issues, and is an important part of ensuring that the Memory of Jeanne Clery, and the legislation passed in her name, helps to better protect and ultimately save the lives of students across the country.”

“Our beloved daughter Jeanne died because of what she didn’t know about the threat of crime on her campus,” said Connie and Howard Clery. “National Campus Safety Awareness Month will help ensure that other students know what she didn’t and will help to save lives on campuses across the country.” Jeanne Clery’s parents founded Security on Campus, a non-profit in King of Prussia, Pa., which promotes awareness and prevention of campus violence.

College and university campuses are not immune to criminal activity. Each year more than 70,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault, and more than 600,000 are assaulted by another student under the influence of alcohol. Until 1988, however, only four percent of America’s colleges and universities reported campus crime statistics to the FBI, or to students, parents or anyone else concerned about the safety of America’s college and university campuses.

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, signed into law in 1990 by President George H. W. Bush, require all colleges and universities that receive federal funding to report crime statistics. This law has proven essential in educating students and parents about campus safety conditions and has helped colleges and universities more accurately address crime on their campuses. Under the Jeanne Clery Act, the U.S. Department of Education reported a total of 86 homicides; 7,941 sex offenses; 9,296 aggravated assaults; and 3,367 arsons “on-campus” from 2001 to 2003.

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